

**Idahoans are
working together
to conserve sage-grouse
by improving
the landscape
upon which
the birds depend.**



We may be able to help you!

Funding and technical assistance may be available to assist you with sage-grouse conservation on your land.

If you are interested, please contact:



Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Contact the nearest Regional Office to you
or phone 208-334-2920 or 208-287-2752



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Contact the District Conservationist at the
NRCS Field Office nearest you

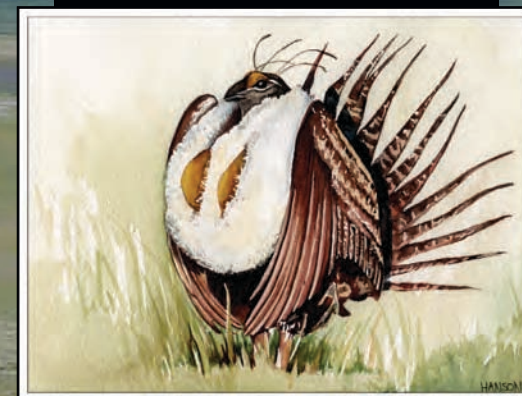


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Contact the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-378-5267 or 208-685-6951

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and Ken Miracle. Illustrations by Hanson Architectural Illustration.
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SAGE-GROUSE



Icon of the West

SAGE-GROUSE: Icon of the West



Sage-grouse have become an icon of the West. They symbolize healthy sagebrush ecosystems throughout Idaho's lands. Sage-grouse numbers have declined in some areas, though. Sage-grouse need healthy sagebrush habitat to survive. If you ranch or farm in sagebrush country, you can help conserve this icon of the West on your lands.

Sage-grouse use sagebrush habitat throughout the year in different ways. During the spring, sage-grouse gather on mating grounds, or "leks," before moving to nesting areas. Successful nesting depends upon adequate big sagebrush cover and a healthy understory of grasses and broad-leaved plants. Once hatched, chicks require insects and broad-leaved plants to grow. As summer progresses, broods (hens and chicks) may migrate as far as 20 miles to find suitable brood-rearing areas, including wet meadows and riparian habitat near sagebrush. In the fall and winter, they move to where the sagebrush is not totally covered by snow, so they can feed on their primary winter diet of sagebrush.

How can ranchers and farmers help conserve sage-grouse on their land?

Idahoans are working together to conserve sage-grouse by improving the landscape upon which the birds depend. Certain management practices on ranching and farming lands will help the iconic sage-grouse.

- Protect sagebrush habitat and native rangeland from conversion to grassland or other land uses.
- Manage your habitats to provide 15% and 30% big sagebrush cover.
- Maintain wet meadow and riparian areas with grass and forb cover to provide brood habitat.
- Cut hay fields from the inside out, or back and forth toward one end to avoid sage-grouse mortality.
- If there's a wildfire or other disturbance, re-seed immediately with mixes that include sagebrush and native grasses.
- Remove juniper, pinyon pine, and conifers where they are invading sagebrush habitat.
- Maintain low levels of disturbance near mating grounds during lek season, and in early mornings/late evenings.
- Don't install or build tall structures that encourage raptor and raven perching.
- Remove trash, brush piles, abandoned/unused fences, and dilapidated buildings to reduce predators.
- Construct fences at least 0.6 miles from leks to minimize grouse collisions with fences.
- If sage-grouse are known to fly into fences, or there's a chance they may, place markers on the fences.
- Minimize off-road vehicle use, especially when fire danger is high or during nesting season.
- Manage your livestock to achieve light to moderate use on grasses and forbs.
- Provide periodic rest or deferment from grazing.
- Avoid herding livestock or bedding sheep near leks during the breeding season.
- Place salt or mineral supplements in existing disturbed sites.

